

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The Residential Ratepayers Advisory Board (“the Board”) held a meeting on June 6, 2005 at the Office of Consumer Advocate. Otis convened the Board meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Present for the Board were:

Larry Kelly, Chair (arrived at 2:15 pm.)
Otis Perry, Vice Chair
Larry Ross
Ed Brueggemann
Jeff MacGillivray
Dick Stonner
Ross Doerr

Present for the Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”) were:

Anne Ross, Consumer Advocate
Kenneth Traum, Assistant Consumer Advocate
Rorie Hollenberg, Staff Attorney
Christina Martin, Legal Assistant

Agenda:

1. **Minutes of May meeting**

The Board moved to approve the May Board Minutes, subject to a correction referenced by Jeff regarding the closed session minutes. Seconded and approved.

2. **Legislation**

There was brief discussion on HB129, HB174, HB175, HB194, SB11 and SB128.

Christina explained that Ken and Anne had done some work behind the scenes regarding the proposed amendment for HB129. A new floor amendment which was acceptable to the OCA was then passed. Christina stated that HB174 has been passed with the most recent amendment that the Board has seen. Larry R. stated that the HB175 bill is not merged with the SB128 bill but is related to it. HB194 is discussed under agenda item number three.

3. **Alternative Regulation**

Anne explained the issues with Verizon’s request for alternative regulation. Anne provided and referred to a handout for the discussion. The Board discussed the issues and how we should proceed with the case. The discussion then turned to HB194 which originally proposed a study committee on the deregulation of telecom providers. Anne explained that she appeared at the last hearing and signed in as taking no position on the bill. During the hearing, an amendment was discussed and approved which, in effect,

deregulated the smaller LEC's. The Committee misunderstood the OCA's position of no position as also applying to the amendment. Anne explained that the OCA strongly opposes the bill as amended. Anne told the Board that she plans to clarify the OCA's position in a letter to the Senate Committee. Larry K. asked that we revisit the alternative regulation discussion at our next Advisory Board Meeting and that the OCA make available the following information:

- a. What are the alternatives?
- b. Examples of regulation in neighboring states;
- c. Timeline of expectations for Board guidance;
- d. List of interesting questions/answers;
- e. FCC implications; and
- f. Proposed Legislation.

Jeff asked that the minutes reflect that it is the duty of a regulated entity to adopt accounting methods that are understandable to the PUC. In absence of clear information the costs should be disallowed until clear information is provided.

Jeff motioned that the OCA push for a study committee on telecom issues and nothing more, seconded and approved. Larry R. abstained.

4. **FCC VOIP/E911**

Brief explanation of the article provided and the FCC Order that was released on May 19, 2005. There was some discussion regarding the companies compliance with the FCC Order within the time period prescribed. Larry K. asked if Anne could present some more information on this subject at the next meeting.

5. **EAP/SBC allocations**

Ken gave responses to the questions asked by the Board at the last Board meeting. One of the questions asked is still being investigated. If nothing is heard in a week or so Christina will follow up.

6. **Miscellaneous Issues**

Ed asked for an update of the vacant Utility Analyst Position. Anne and Ken explained the outcome of the ad in the paper so far and the deadlines for applications. Christina also noted that the ad is posted on NASUCA and NARUC websites.

Rorie gave a summary of the Fryeburg Order (DW 04-020) and there was some discussion regarding the Order and the remedy proposed by the Commission for the time being. Rorie also provided a brief update on the status of the proceedings before the ME PUC. Larry K. asked that we get an update on Fryeburg's ME docket at the next Board Meeting.

Rorie gave an update on the Bedford Service Quality docket (DE 03-113). She summarized the Commission's secretarial letter that went out to the service list on June 3, 2005. There was brief discussion regarding the letter and the electric rulemaking docket.

Anne recognized Ken's efforts in the DE 04-177 PSNH docket. Consumers will be saved \$2 million dollars a year on their PSNH bills.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Next meeting is to be held on July 18, 2005 at 2:00-4:00 p.m.